

# How to Catch a Chick



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## Part I: General Overview of Business

- Purpose: to conserve and enhance natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Iowa and ensure a legacy for future generations.
- Upland Game Unit involves management of pheasants, quail, cottontail rabbits, squirrels, turkey, etc. Monitoring yearly harvest and populations as well as providing landowners and hunters with information.

## Part II: Job Specifics

- Determine the insect availability in different types of vegetation and densities of vegetation using pheasant chicks. “How are pheasants responding to native prairie restorations and maintenance?”
- I imprint on the chicks for several days, getting the chicks to associate their needed warmth with my presence and voice. Starting on the chick’s fifth day, I take six to a predetermined location and allow them to forage. After 30 minutes, I gather up the chicks to find out what they ate, repeating this process multiple times at different locations and field vegetation types around Northwest Iowa.

## Part III: Introduce the Problem

- It is difficult to recapture the chicks out in the field, especially as they get older. Chicks are very skittish of feet and hands and will run away if you try to capture and miss.
- Students should design a way to capture the chicks besides just using hands.

## Part IV: Background

- Have limited time to capture all 6 chicks (15 minutes). Must work in different types of vegetation and density of vegetation. Must be easy to use and carry to remote sites in the field. Cannot harm the chick and cause little stress.

## Part V: Business Solution

- Several methods tried. Tying a string to the chicks legs, but didn’t have time to test if the string impeded the chicks’ abilities to forage.
- Use the wire capture basket with stakes at one end to go into ground when capturing so chick doesn’t escape in dense vegetation. Has plastic tubing on top so hand doesn’t get scratched. Lightweight, easy to carry, easy to move and use quickly.

## Part VI: Student Solutions

- Using a net, tying a string to the chick, creating a pen out in the field to keep them in an enclosed area, etc.